

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A recording medium which records information as an optically readable coded image,

wherein said coded image contains record location  
5 information indicative of a record location at which  
said coded image is recorded on said recording medium.

2. A recording medium according to claim 1,  
wherein said coded image contains said record location  
information as an element of a physical format of said  
coded image.

3. A recording medium according to claim 2, wherein said coded image comprises a plurality of blocks, each of which includes:

an information area containing divided information  
15 into which said information is divided;

a marker area including a marker to allow recognition of each of said blocks; and

a block ID area containing block ID information to identify each of said blocks.

20 said areas are located in accordance with  
predetermined relative positions of said areas.

said block ID information also functions as said record location information.

4. A recording medium according to claim 1,  
25 wherein said coded image contains said record location  
information as an element of a logical format of said  
coded image.

5. A coded image reading apparatus for optically reading a coded image from a recording medium which records information as an optically readable coded image,

5       wherein the coded image contains record location information indicative of a record location at which the coded image is recorded on said recording medium, and the record location information is contained as an element of a physical format or a logical format of the  
10      coded image,

      said apparatus including:

      image inputting means for inputting the coded image; and

15      record location determining means for obtaining the record location information from the coded image input by said image inputting means, and determining the record location at which the input coded image is recorded on said recording medium.

20      6. A coded image reading apparatus according to claim 5, further including operation information outputting means for outputting information about user operation in accordance with the record location determined by said record location determining means.

25      7. A coded image reading apparatus according to claim 6,

      wherein when a plurality of coded images is recorded on said recording medium, said operation

information outputting means outputs information about a record location of a coded image to be next read.

8. A coded image reading apparatus according to claim 5, further including decoding means for decoding the information in accordance with the record location determined by said record location determining means.

9. A coded image reading apparatus according to claim 8, further including information type determining means for determining the type of information contained in the coded image recorded at the record location in accordance with the record location determined by said record location determining means,

wherein said decoding means decodes the information in accordance with the result of determination by said information type determining means.

10. A coded image reading apparatus according to any one of claims 5 through 9, wherein the coded image comprises a plurality of blocks, each of which includes:

an information area containing divided information into which the information is divided;

a marker area including a marker to allow recognition of each of the blocks; and

25 a block ID area containing block ID information to identify each of the blocks,

the areas are located in accordance with

predetermined relative positions of the areas,

the block ID information also functions as the record location information, and

5 said record location determining means includes a reference table which shows the correspondence between the record location information and the block ID information.

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